

2004 MIAMI CONFERENCE REPORTS

28TH ANNUAL MIAMI CONFERENCE ON THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

AN INTEGRATED THIRD BORDER

DECEMBER 6-8, 2004 INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL MIAMI, FL

CARIBBEAN CENTRAL AMERICAN ACTION

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Concurrent Workshop—Integrating the Third Border
Tuesday December 7, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

Focus on the Caribbean (Caricom)

Moderator: Anthony Bryan, Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

Discussants: Joseph Goddard, Goddard Enterprises; James Moss-Solomon, Grace Kennedy; Leela Narinesingh, Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME); Charles Shapiro, U.S. Department of State

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- Small markets make everyone a competitor; the Caribbean Single Market & Economy provides the conditions for growth. Appropriate guidelines/parameters are needed to prepare both physically and financially for the CSME.
- Implementation of single market in order to provide for the free movement of goods, labor, knowledge, capital and other resources within the region.
- The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) needs to be fully operative by 2005, preceded by appropriate legal mechanisms to guide the process.
- Political and education system needs restructuring to meet the needs of the home country.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the region more competitive?

- Political union needs to become a reality. This will only happen when governments no longer see free movement of labor as threat, but as an advantage.
- CSME needs to be materialized in order for Caricom members to be included in the FTAA.
- Regional Changes:
 - Caricom needs to be re-structured. Top level focuses too much on detail - this should be left to technocrats.
 - Administrative restrictions need to be removed to harmonize and implement legal amendments.
 - Streamlining of all document procedures with a common system in place.
 - Fair and equal treatment of the Caribbean (Caricom members).
 - Freeing up restrictions on movement on labor and movement of citizens within the region.
- Technical/Sectoral changes:
 - Refocus on sectors such as ICT, music, professional services.
 - Focus on technology upgrades.
 - Identify new markets.
- To attract foreign investment to the region
 - Shift focus to natural resources available to the different countries within the region.
 - Implementation of CSME in order for the region to gain a competitive advantage.
 - Establish and enforce regulations concerning intellectual property protection.

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Harmonization of documentation needed for the free flow of labor within the region
- Integration of ICT standards and platforms needed by the region.

Concurrent Workshop—Integrating the Third Border
Tuesday December 7, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

Focus on Central America & Panama (ISTHMUS)

Moderator: Arturo Condo, INCAE

Discussants: Mario Arana, Minister of Development, Industry & Commerce (Honduras); Juan Canahuati, Grupo Lovable; Jorge Zablah-Touche, CEAL; Emmanuel Seidner, Laboratorios Santa Fe

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- CAFTA consolidates temporary, unilateral gains of CBI with a permanent, multilateral framework. CAFTA is a tool, not an end in itself and is not a solution to all problems:
 - To capitalize on benefits region must reach consensus on a TECHNICAL agenda – in addition to a political agenda - to promote competitiveness and collaboration.
- FTAA's future looks uncertain. The established January 2005 goals will not be met and a major stumbling block over agricultural negotiations remains.
- Comprehensive and far-sighted integration provides the future for trade in the region:
 - Common external tariffs and internal taxes
 - Free flow of services; free flow of capital—harmonize banking requirements and incorporation, create common currency; free flow of people—ability to work and move across the region
 - Region needs to invest in education and competitiveness: university degrees should be accepted in all countries
 - Improve rule of law and judicial reform
 - Support Plan Puebla Panama and engage the private sector
- CAFTA must be placed within a comprehensive development agenda in order to achieve benefits for the poor. The region must articulate a strategy for using CAFTA as an instrument for development, considering realities of asymmetry among countries in the region and with the U.S.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the region more competitive?

- Create customs union as critical step to deepen integration, reduce transaction costs and provide fluid movement of goods. Much has been done yet much more remains and the sooner the better.
 - Implementing CAFTA before there is a Customs Union will make implementation and administration very complex
 - Trade capacity building requires additional funding (training of customs officials) but forming a customs union is an important prerequisite.
- Establish government administrative office to manage implementation of trade policies
- Prepare labor force by linking educational system to actual market demand for skills. Universities must work closely with businesses to identify opportunities and emphasize science, technology and research, i.e. valuable statistical data is necessary to analyze and assess labor supply & demand.
- Promote entrepreneurship to strengthen SMEs with an emphasis on marketing skills in addition to traditional focus on financing and product quality.
- Multilateral vs. Bilateral: with FTAA stalled, US is willing to move ahead on a bi-lateral/ regional basis while it is in the interest of smaller economies to achieve a multilateral agreement for increased leverage.
- Simplify and expedite existing import/export procedures & requirements to formally establish a business.
- Involve private sector more to promote regional integration, i.e. Plan Puebla Panama
- Increase infrastructure investment to lower costs and capitalize on geographic proximity: Shipping goods to El Salvador from Costa Rica costs the same as shipping the same good from Chile

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Simplification of import/export paperwork
- Speed up 6 month inspection process required for certification of goods
- Streamlining migratory processes to facilitate tourism
- 24 hour airport operation with similar commitment from private sector to speed up turn-around times

Concurrent Workshop—Integrating the Third Border
Tuesday December 7, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

Focus on the Dominican Republic & Haiti (Hispaniola)

Moderator: Eduardo Gamarra, Florida International University

Discussants: Jean Edouard Baker, Association des Industries d'Haiti (AIDH); Henri Bazin, Minister of Finance, Haiti; Eddy Martinez Manzueta, CEI-RD; Luis R. Pellerano, Pellerano & Herrera

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- Lack of understanding in how to effectively support Haitian development.
- Too much focus on political relationship; insufficient focus on economic relationship
- Limited cross border private sector cooperation efforts.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Formalize trade agreements between the Dominican Republic and Haiti to increase cross border cooperation, trade and investment.
 - Bilateral Commission (Comision Mixta)
 - Last meeting known was in 1998, although bilateral talks have taken place
 - Commission should formally reconvene
- Cooperation between the two countries on DR-CAFTA, HERO, and FTAA
- Customs agreement between the two countries is required
- Environmental action cooperation between the two countries is a priority
- Integrate related industries to increase production capability and competitiveness.
- Increase political dialogue and private sector proactive participation.
- Haiti has tremendous potential in tourism, and the development of this industry would also benefit the Dominican Republic
 - Political stability and commitment to investment in the industry
 - Re-establish the program where packages to visit Haiti for a day or two were offered to DR tourists
- Explore agribusiness opportunities for cross-border cooperation
 - Haiti has microclimates which could also benefit DR farmers
 - Haiti could buy products from DR to benefit their agro industry
- Potential for countries to work together to face world textile market
 - DR has technical knowledge and plants
 - Haiti has competitive labor, WTO and EU special treatment
 - Special treatment would let both countries work together to make Hispaniola a major player in apparel

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Benchmarking of approaches that have worked in India and globally to boost industry production.

Concurrent Workshop—Integrating the Third Border
Tuesday December 7, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

Focus on North America (NAFTA)

Moderator: Robert Gallucci, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service

Discussants: Walter Bastian, U.S. Department of Commerce; Charles Cobb, Florida FTAA; Stephen Lande, Manchester Trade, José Antonio Rivas, Mexico Trade Commission (Miami).

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- Anything that affects Mexico affects the U.S. Hence, job losses in Mexico equal job losses in the US, jobs that in turn shift to China
- U.S. parts in Mexican manufactured goods has dropped from 93% to 80%, whereas U.S. parts in Chinese manufactured goods is less than 5%.
- Because of NAFTA, trade between signatories increased from \$3 billion to \$6 billion.
- Challenge: How can the U.S. remain a worldwide competitor?
- Debate on NAFTA and CAFTA critical to Florida, as sea ports are critical to the Florida economy.
- Mexican-U.S. negotiators have not addressed sugar and corn problem and are unable to successfully compete with powerful U.S. sugar lobby groups.
- Central American negotiators not very knowledgeable about what FTAs entail.
- The Central problem in all of Latin America, including Chile, excluding Mexico, is that nobody has a vision for the future, although they do for the short term.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Make funds available to support reconstruction and development in developing country. Wealthier country must aid in development. In this regard, there needs to be a budget for “capacity building” in the developing country on the part of the richer country.
- Region not ready for Economic or Customs Union.
- Need for acceleration of duty reductions.
- Once DR-CAFTA is approved, Argentina and Brazil will begin negotiations for FTAA, which in turn will be signed at the end of 2005.)
- Textile industry: the big advantage that Mexico and Central America have is the region’s proximity to the U.S.

Concurrent Roundtables—Industry Sectors
Tuesday December 7, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Agribusiness: Small Farmers in the Era of Free Trade

Moderators: Chelston Brathwaite, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); Kenneth Hoadley, Zamorano

Discussants: Peggy Carlson, Partners of the Americas; Freddy Fernandez, Crop Life Latin America; Gabriel Pascual, Pascual Dairy; Linda Swacina, USDA; David Wernick, FIU

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- Agriculture is a unique industry that must be considered from several critical perspectives:
 - Labor implications: 1 out of every 2 jobs is in agriculture
 - Social considerations: food security and rural poor
 - Complexities of liberalized trade: agricultural subsidies equal 7 times the amount of foreign aid money
- Addressing agriculture will require tackling three fundamental challenges:
 - Rural poverty – 70% of those living in extreme poverty are located in the rural sector
 - Environmental sustainability – current deforestation rate of 30-50% is unsustainable
 - Global competition – local producers must push a transformation in production and marketing and focus on agribusiness, not just agriculture, to benefit from free trade
- Small farmers face challenge of meeting different standards for EU, Canadian and U.S. markets
 - Support must be provided to assist small farmer select most economically viable strategy
- Small farmers best bet:
 - Promote “quality image”
 - Exploit linkages between tourism and agriculture by capitalizing on tourists who comprise an important part of the internal market.
 - Focus on tourism-related buyers: restaurants, cruise lines, and hotels

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Critical emphasis must be put on training to improve management skills and access to information
 - Create manual detailing agro-export standards, procedures and requirements
 - Custom tailor assistance programs to overcome disconnect between research and beneficiaries
 - Micro-level exchange to promote greater understanding and knowledge transfer
 - Interventions should be designed so that all players get what they want, i.e. university gets data, farmers get appropriate high-tech assistance, NGO gets quantifiable results
- Equivalent certification programs can help local producers access export markets
 - Governments must improve inspection programs and increase quantity and quality of trained personnel, problem often does not lie with conditions in production facilities
 - Establish equivalent food standards: quality of domestic products should be raised to meet export standards, local populations should not be made to consume inferior goods.
- Entire commodity chain must be considered - from production to processing to marketing – in designing effective assistance programs and identifying “last step” needed for beneficiary to reach export market
- Harmonizing regional legislation: if countries can articulate single regional legislation, U.S. “Dairy Tsar” will use opportunity to assist local producers obtain Grade A certification
- Programs must provide greater access to credit and finance for small producers to take advantage of market opportunities
- Increased investments in transportation needed to reduce costs
- Haiti francine mango found ethnic buyers in the US
 - Timely linkage activities (trade shows) brought buyers and sellers together
 - Niche market identified and exploited with focused, targeted marketing

December 6-8, 2004 InterContinental Hotel Miami, FL

Concurrent Roundtables—Industry Sectors
Tuesday December 7, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Apparel & Assembly: Life After January 2005

Moderators: Jesus Canahuati, Honduran Apparel & Manufacturers' Association (HAMA); Michael Fralix, TC2

Discussants: Julio Barea, Russell Corporation; Richard Coles, Multi-Tex; Jerry Haar, FIU, Alfonso Hernandez, ARGUS; Mike Todaro, AAPN

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- Quota elimination beginning January 2005 will increase competition from China and Southeast Asia. More time and money being spent to stop China on investing in the region.
- Limited integrated regional approach to production and doing business in the region.
- Lack of understanding of supply chain and ability to anticipate retailer needs.
- Industry remains in the production of basic garments, not fashion or woven goods.
- Demand for speed, competitive costs, flexibility, and service excellence.
- Limited design knowledge, graphic data, technological know how and analysis.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Combine talents and promote Central America as a regional production entity. Use collective competition to build and integrate regional strengths.
- Increase turn around time, flexibility and speed-to-market. Close proximity of market is an advantage in doing business.
- Continue to promote and use full package production.
- Continue to negotiate as a Central American regional entity through the established apparel association.
- Government intervention to increase transparency, socio-economic conditions of workforce, and update labor laws and source supply.
- Increase workforce skills in design and graphic production. Have routine training programs.
- Invest in infrastructural improvements and technological innovation to expand the apparel industry.
- Pass and implement CAFTA.

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Use training models developed by corporations (Cargill) to increase workforce skills.
- Combine resources to develop and act as a regional entity/supplier.
- Promote Central America as socially responsible with an effective labor market and good social conditions.

Concurrent Roundtables—Industry Sectors
Tuesday December 7, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Energy: Regional vs. National Solutions

Moderators: Gary Ward, Director, Office of American Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy; Mariano Gurfinkel, Assistant Director, FIU-CETA

Discussants: Roland Clarke, CARICOM; Alfredo Fernandez-Sivori, CCA Public Affairs Manager, ExxonMobil; Andrew Gittens, General Manager, Barbados Light & Power Company; Matthew McManus, Chief, Energy Producer Country Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Leslie Miller, Minister of Energy, Bahamas; Kevin Wolahan, Retail Manager, Central America, ChevronTexaco

Issues Highlighted

- Regional energy usage per capita use in the Caribbean is 4-5 times that of the rest of the hemisphere; in Central America, it is half. Economic growth depends in part on energy availability at affordable prices.
- Caribbean goals: The Caribbean needs safe, secure, reliable energy, backed by credible environmental standards required by international institutions.
- U.S. energy policy goals: energy security, increased standards of living, and decreased energy dependency from outside hemisphere.
- Corporate goals: safety and operational excellence, as well as ISPS compliance through local authorities and the IMO -good corporate citizenship.

Solutions

- Increased diversification: The region needs to consider wind, hydro and LNG pipelines as alternatives even though indications are that biomass and wind are not commercially viable. Wind specifically is variable, geographically challenging (land is privately owned) and permitting difficult.
- As it relates to LNG, the costs and challenges associated with production and shipping within the region may be quite high and the true viability and cost of a regional pipeline are not known to ensure that this is a viable solution. LNG storage capacity exceeds the size of markets for many islands. LNG must offset the high upfront costs of production
- A re-gasification terminal is now being planned in Bahamas through retrofitting for LNG use. In addition, seismic testing is also being conducted on Grand Bahamas Bank as well as along the shores of other Caribbean countries in order to possibly identify local sources of fuel. Exploration for oil and gas can only work in countries where regulations and the “rules of the game” are clear and investor-friendly. Example of the Bahamas.
- PetroCaribe: The initiative of Venezuelan government (next meeting will take place in Grand Bahamas end of January) is being viewed politically as the answer, but economics, environmental issues yet to be fully addressed.
- Increased centralized coordination of
 - rural electrification efforts on the mainland.
 - regional energy programs that include bulk crude purchase, rationalization of distribution, and alternative energy initiatives.
 - mechanisms for lowering costs: a central energy desk, carbon trading opportunities, an investment facility for renewable energy, and a public awareness campaign.
- Creation of a more competitive marketplace.
 - The Caribbean market is efficient: if one can subtract all the taxes, the price per gallon in the Caribbean is \$1.39 with a margin of 9 cents per gallon.
 - The Caribbean market has enjoyed energy security.
 - Despite strikes at Petrotrin and PDVSA and despite recent hurricanes, through a depot infrastructure, mature trading relationships, and multiple points of supply. The energy majors welcome competitors on a level playing field.
 - To continue to attract new players, the region needs to encourage uniform product specifications and the regional harmonization of duties.
 - Implement regulatory environments that are opaque or confusing do not promote market access
 - Treat energy services companies are not treated equally, regardless of origin

CCAA Best Practice Recommendations – 2005 Agenda

- Design of a competitive marketplace, including uniform product specifications, and regional harmonization of duties.
- Encourage commercial opportunities for alternative energy, and renewable energy combinations, like solar and wind.

Concurrent Roundtables—Industry Sectors
Tuesday December 7, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Financial Services: The Time for Regional Integration Has Come

Moderators: Ram Ramesh, Caribbean Money Market Brokers (CMMB); Jaime Rivera, Banco Latinoamericano de la Exportación (BLADEX)

Discussants: María Eugenia Brizuela de Ávila, Banco Salvadoreño; Robert Sherretta, International Investor; Brian Wynter, Jamaica Financial Services Commission; Marlon Yarde, Barbados Stock Exchange

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- Small, open economies are strained due to a lack of financing in the region.
- There is a call for increased liquidity—the region does not have the necessary financial system in place to promote, protect and support the fund flows required.
- Need to improve transparency in the region so as to encourage increased amounts of foreign investment.
- Methods for training and educating financial services professionals are not uniform throughout the region.
- The region’s financial services industry suffers from a competitive disadvantage due to lack of scale.
- Compliance & audit translate into very high costs for banks. There is a need to distribute these costs.
- Need to ensure higher living standards for the people in the region and promote economic development.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- It is time for regional integration (FTAA, CAFTA) as well as the consolidation of the financial services industry. Free trade allows for deeper harmonization and policy integration.
- Call for a common stock market exchange ruled by a common regulatory framework (i.e. based on the Caribbean example, where the region has five different stock exchanges).
- Formation of a regional credit agency, such as the region’s own “Standard & Poor’s” or “Moody’s Investment Services”
- Taking advantage of globalization trends, there should be greater emphasis on creating a more international approach to trade (i.e. increased trade with Europe).

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Simple, single regulatory process allowing for improved transparency and policy harmonization—“One Standard.”
- Bigger banks can provide the capital requirements for the region. Also, scale helps distribute costs such as those associated with compliance and audit requirements. Achieve scale without necessarily investing assets (i.e. Banco Salvadoreño example).
- More technologically linked, harmonized systems.
- Training & education of professionals: use as example the U.S. “CFA” training model.

Concurrent Roundtables—Industry Sectors
Tuesday December 7, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Intellectual Property: The Importance of Enhanced Protection

Moderators: Armando Arias, F.A. Arias & Muñoz; Mark Palchick, Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC

Discussants: Diane Daley, Foga Daley & Co.; Alfredo Ruiz, Crop Life Latin America; Malcolm Spence, CRNM

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- The debate must be focused on developing systems that promote innovation and gains for local economies – not just a technical matter of compliance with WTO standards:
 - Increase awareness of the value of ideas and benefits of IPR protection
 - Ex. sugar cane – vital industry but few in the region actually own patents on technology they use
- FTAA has provided gains in strengthening IPR laws and enforcement while increased its value by identifying core competencies of small economies and making room for them
 - Still, FTAA & CAFTA have too many provisions to protect US interests and not enough to promote goals of Central America & Caribbean
- Caribbean Court of Justice provides IPR enforcement for an integrated economy with binding appellate and original jurisdictions and the authority to interpret treaties
- CARICOM agenda addresses IPR looking to WTO as benchmark:
 - Member states must participate in strengthening IPR laws
 - Establishment of regional administrative system including regional offices for support
 - Seek protection of traditional IP such as folklore
 - Encourage fair trade and technology transfer, prevent abuse of dominant position
 - Invest in greater education and training of general public and government officials

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Identify industries that will benefit from IPR, determine appropriate protection for each and use current negotiations (FTAA, DR-CAFTA) to ensure beneficial results for small economies
 - Ex. 10 yrs exclusive protection for agro-chemical industry; pharmaceutical protected for 5 yrs
 - Private sector must be included (as mandated in FTAA process)
 - Implementation strategy must be defined and IPR laws must be harmonized
 - Extend protection of wine and spirits to agriculture
- IPR standards must be harmonized across countries, treaties provide framework for this to occur
- Finding the link between IPR and wealth creation in small economies
 - Attract venture capital by protecting innovation system
 - Promote national innovation system producing win-win results
 - Incentive should arise from protecting valuable IP, not simply complying with WTO
 - IP offers opportunity to generate wealth in small economies, emphasis on branding, ex. Jamaica
 - Increase demand for science and technology graduates
 - Protecting and promoting folklore and tradition IP elements
- Public education effort beginning at elementary school level is necessary to encourage inventive mentality and demonstrate the value of experimenting with ideas
- Small countries must incorporate Diaspora which represents a highly skilled group using technology and creative ideas.
- Build support for UP issues by creating associations (ex. artists) to lobby for protections

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Licensing products of foreign companies in addition to registering them so that local vendor has incentive to promote and enforce IPR

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Concurrent Roundtables—Industry Sectors
Tuesday December 7, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Tourism Sustainable Growth: A Study in Contrasts

Moderators: Karen Ford-Warner, Caribbean Tourism Organization; Lucía Salazar de Robelo, Minister of Tourism, Nicaragua

Discussants: Andy Gómez, University of Miami; Jennifer Nugent-Hill, Tropical Shipping, Deirdre Shurland, CAST.

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- “Juxtaposition” of tourism initiatives of the Caribbean and Central America. Whereas the Caribbean is very commercial, Central America appears more “sensitive” to the environment, to the natural heritage.
- According to report, serious environmental damage done to Caribbean ecosystem, as a result of tourism initiatives. Fault lies with lack of prior planning and with permit-granting to hotel chains.

What needs to be done:

- There is a need for an effective, accurate, and knowledgeable planning service, in which government must take the lead.
- Need for integration of the Caribbean by end of 2005.
- “Shareholders” have to be identified and targeted (ex. Local communities, media, local government & municipalities). These are “strengthened” through education (technology) and infrastructure.
- Central government should develop a strategy of decentralization.
- Private Sector & central government must work together in attracting investments.
- “Enclave” tourism should be avoided, where tourists are not interested in what the rest of the country has to offer.
- Hotels must be built thinking not only of environmental impact, but also with disaster preparedness in mind. Tourism initiatives should include consideration of environmental impact, of sustainability
- Education initiatives to include regard for the environment.
- Warning to Caribbean countries: Cuba will open soon. Although it was agreed that the opening of Cuba is a good thing rather than something to be feared because of the competition.

Concurrent Roundtables—Industry Sectors
Tuesday December 7, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Telecom/IT: More than Simply an Economic Lifeline

Moderators: Richard Nixon, Nortel Networks; Antonio Tavel, Celtel

Discussants: Frank Cine, Haitel S.A.; James Corbin, University of the West Indies; Eric Fishman, Holland & Knight; Zeke Rodríguez, Telefónica; Paul Scott, Caribbean Crossings

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- On an individual basis, markets are small. But, several challenges to the regional integration process exist due to differences amongst countries with regard to infrastructure and regulatory status (i.e. FTAA & CSME).
- Telecommunications capability has a big impact on societal advancement/development. Telecom infrastructure is inadequate in the region—there is an urgent need to provide Telecom in rural and ultra-rural areas.
- Free trade agreements (i.e. FTAA & CSME) call for improved telecommunications capabilities—closer linkage of markets leading to increased speed of transactions.
- Outsourcing trends within the technology sector by U.S. companies provide huge opportunities for new jobs, but the region lacks competitiveness—most jobs are going to India.
- Disaster recovery—lack of cooperation between the various sectors.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Regional integration of the telecommunications sector calls for harmony of policy—which can be promoted and established through the adequate implementation of free trade agreements.
- Governments must become committed to providing telecom to all areas—increased lobbying will create pressure for governments to deliver a cooperative telecommunications agenda underscored by a drive towards regional integration.
- Establishment of a well-run telecom fund that aims to provide adequate telecommunications capabilities in rural, ultra-rural and urban ghetto areas.
- Improve international trading capabilities by establishing new, more technologically advanced systems. There needs to be a concerted effort between governments, civil society and the private sector.
- Providing people with access to technology (i.e. computers in schools) is one of the first steps towards increasing awareness and building a more technologically savvy population. This, in turn, can help fashion a shift in the outsourcing trend from “off-shore” to “near-shore”.
- More public forums and educational seminars need to take place in the region.

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Clear, transparent policies for regional integration. Establishment of a public forum—to provide funding mechanism for telecommunications improvements in rural, ultra-rural and urban ghetto areas.
- Establishment and maintenance of international trading rules/standards of communications. Cannot afford to have separate pricing mechanisms stemming from the fact that the region lacks the adequate technology links.
- Incentives for fostering cooperation in the telecommunications industry. Need adequate process for disaster recovery. Example: Caribbean regional recovery group.

Concurrent Roundtables—Industry Sectors
Tuesday December 7, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Transportation: Taking Advantage of our Geographic Proximity

Moderators: Jose Perez-Jones, Seaboard Marine Ltd. And Miguel Southwell, Miami International Airport

Discussants: Rawle Baddaloo, PLIPDECO; Juan Kuryla, Port of Miami; Gregory Mevs, Terminal Varreaux SA; Corah Ann Robertson Sylvester; Caribbean Shipping Association; Tal Stokes, AEROMAR

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- Maritime Transportation costs are too high; need to make transportation faster, better, cheaper.
- Air transportation limited and costs too high; need to increase service frequencies and make air transportation faster (more non-stops), safe, cheaper.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the region more competitive?

- Invest in our people, especially because of the prevalence of the “hire who you know and not because of what they know” practice in the Region. Aggressively train not only port and airport workers but educate policy makers as well. Do both by:
 - Having airport professionals in the region participate in training provided by Airports Council International – Latin America & Caribbean
 - Get educational institutions involved by offering various transportation courses
- Standardize Customs processes and procedures throughout region, including the development of a common computer platform to share database.

Maritime Transportation:

- Develop Shipping alliances – lowers costs, expand distribution, expands network to smaller countries
- Remove bureaucracy – particularly those associated with Customs
- Invest in new efficient infrastructure (seaports & port access)
- Upgrade security – cost of the investment in security is often offset by reduction in costs (losses) associated with pilferage
- Urge cruise lines to invest in the infrastructure of seaports in the region
 - Integrate CCA’s efforts with existing task force led by newly hired Horace Hord of Royal Caribbean

Air Transportation:

- Improve competitive position of airlines operating in the region by granting traffic rights for airlines, even non-regional ones such as AmeriJet, to fly between countries within the region
- Take advantage of evolving aviation trends:
 - Opportunity for airports in the region to replace those in the U.S. which are beginning to lose hub service because of a growing hassle factor caused by security measures
 - Low cost U.S. domestic airlines are expanding to international destinations in the Caribbean and Central America that are within a 2-3 hour flight time
- Third-party development of airport infrastructure/privatization is sweeping across the Region providing opportunities to build modern efficiently run airports without using the scarce financial resources of nations. A bi-product of this is more of the revenue generated by these airports are reinvested in the airports to maintain, renovate and rebuild them, instead of being siphoned to social programs elsewhere in the countries and jeopardizing the proper maintenance and redevelopment of the nations’ key economic engines – their airports

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

Conduct an assessment/SWPOT analysis of transportation to and within the region. Examine:

- Logistics (Bottlenecks)
- Security
- Customs
- Must include/involve private sector throughout process

Concurrent Workshops—Florida & the Caribbean Basin
Wednesday December 8, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

Disaster Preparedness & Relief: Hurricanes Don't Respect Borders

Moderator: John Sanbrailo, Executive Director, Pan American Development Foundation

Discussants: Rodney Slater, James Lee Witt Associates; Phil Gelman, USAID; Steve Jesseph, Sara Lee; Julieta Valls, FAVACA; Jennifer Nugent-Hill, Tropical Shipping; Eric Williams, G.O.A.L.

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

In light of the particularly brutal hurricane season that struck the Caribbean between the months of August and September 2004, CCAA thought it apt to include a Concurrent Workshop on Disaster Preparedness and Relief efforts. Given the degree to which a natural disaster can affect the economy of the Caribbean islands, it is imperative that governments and the private sector alike develop strategies to provide faster relief, mitigate the effects of the phenomena (rebuilding of infrastructure, trauma assistance), and rebuild key areas of the economy (not least the small businesses, which are the most common and the ones on which most people depend).

Major planks of the discussion:

- Disaster Relief (basic humanitarian and infrastructural relief in the aftermath of the phenomenon)
- Disaster Mitigation (this is to say, risk reduction, focus on the economic aspects of natural disasters)
- Hazard Analysis (identification of critical facilities and resources).

It was agreed upon that “relief efforts” must go beyond emergency aid once the disaster has subsided. While important, these are not sufficient in addressing the long-term damage to the economy. Businesses can be destroyed or take months to be rebuilt.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

The discussants focused on efforts that have either been implemented or are being developed by the groups/companies that they represent.

Broadly, the conclusions centered on the necessity to implement strategies of Disaster Relief, Disaster Mitigation, and Hazard Analysis.

- -Governments and businesses should include natural disasters as a part of their “business plan”. Taking this into account will help in dealing with and preparing for the event long before it strikes.
- -Importance to deal with the employment aspects of disaster preparedness.
- -Business plans should be drawn up that include ensuring the safety of employees & families, as well as facilitating the continuation of business operations.
- -Necessary for organizations to work before, during and after disaster strikes.
- -Capacity-building and post-disaster trauma relief is key.
- -Gathering support from diaspora of affected country (ex. FAVACA working with South Florida Haitian-Americans)
- -Important for private sector to become involved in disaster relief effort, as they are the prime beneficiaries.

Questions for CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- How to expand programs that provide immediate infrastructural relief?
- How to obtain more private sector involvement?
- How to evolve from disaster relief to disaster preparedness?

Concurrent Workshops—Florida & the Caribbean Basin
Wednesday December 8, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

DR-CAFTA: The State's (Florida) Largest Trading Partner

Moderator: Antonio Villamil, Governor's Council of Economic Advisors

Discussants: Jorge Arrizurieta, Florida FTAA; John Hyatt, I. Brown Company; William Malamud, AmCham-DR; Marco Vinicio Ruiz, CECA

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

US perspective

- States along the U.S. Gulf and South Atlantic stand to gain the most from lowered tariffs mandated by DR-CAFTA, including the 80% of Louisiana's agricultural industry not involved in sugar.
- Reinforcing trade between Florida and the region is an essential component of Florida's development
 - Opposition to DR-CAFTA in Florida is centered in the sugar industry
 - Influential citrus industry in Florida is not opposed to DR-CAFTA
- Regional advances like CAFTA provide material support for goal of creating the FTAA hemispheric trading block.

Dominican/ Central American perspective

- Region is already dependent on global economy and integrated into U.S. economy: 1/3 of the Dominican Republic trade passes through Florida
 - DR-CAFTA will make permanent duty-free preferences and advantages under CBTPA.
- Integration and standardization of external tariffs and internal taxes are the hook to attract foreign investment.
- Opposition exists from (1) small groups who don't understand the agreement, (2) producers who are scared to compete against the U.S., (3) protected industries likely to lose their advantage, and (4) the agricultural sector whose state of protracted decline is likely to accelerate under DR-CAFTA

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- DR-CAFTA is only a tool for economic development, realizing potential benefits will require critical attention to management and implementation:
 - Improving quality of macroeconomic environment
 - Enhancing technological readiness
 - Increasing capacity of public institutions
- Trade capacity building must be increased to avoid negative consequences of NAFTA example
 - Must increase availability of properly trained personnel
- Articulation of National Competitiveness & Business Strategies to increase productivity, reduce poverty and improve the standard of living for local populations
- Establish strategic partnerships between private and public sector
 - Textile industry must complement investment in state-of-the-art equipment with a move from basic knits into high fashion wovens

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Exploit "speed to market" comparative advantage over Pacific Rim competitors
- Textiles opportunities
 - Cumulation – sourcing fabric from other countries with U.S.-FTAs
 - Short supply provisions – Pima cotton from Peru
 - TPL – allowance for sourcing foreign fabric to an annual SME (square meter equivalent) for Nicaragua in first years of agreement

Concurrent Workshops—Florida & the Caribbean Basin
Wednesday December 8, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

Haiti: Ties that Bind

Moderator: Philippe Armand, President, Amcham Haiti

Discussants: Alix Baptiste, Minister of Expatriate Citizens, Government of Haiti; Marie Bell, Chairman, Governor's Advisory Group, State of Florida

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- How to reconnect and integrate the Diaspora with Haiti?
 - 'Ties that bind' Haitians, Hatian-Americans, Florida, and the U.S.
 - Diaspora provided Haiti a prime minister, gives billions to Haiti, is majority source of tourism to Haiti; We want them to be even more active
 - Ministry of Expatriates is major avenue
 - Apolitical in nature; represents neither interest groups
 - Advocate for all parties
 - Governor's Advisory Group can also serve as an alternative
- How can we educate Diaspora; transform from passive to active group responsive to the community?
- How to start using Government missions to serve the Diaspora? Through the Diaspora, the tourist industry can be promoted; no tourism without it
 - Diaspora aren't tourists, they're visitors
- How to create a capital market?
 - Rule of law and transparency are necessary in Haiti to encourage Diaspora investment
- How to encourage Diaspora to come back, retire, etc.?
- How to organize, prioritize, and communicate what work is being done in Haiti?

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- *Communication* with Diaspora
 - Create a website that is a virtual library of information on Haiti
 - Information on how to invest, how to get a driver's license, how to send a letter
- Consumer oriented promotion; encourage Haitians to buy Haitian products
 - Use Diaspora to introduce goods to secondary markets
- Create a profile/index of the Haitian Diaspora
 - What's the effect of Haitians in other countries?
 - High populations in Bahamas and Turks and Caicos
 - Maybe one day there will be a Haitian mayor of Miami
- Need to publish Codes and how-to's for investment to be available to everyone
 - Law needs to be enforced; if I buy a house, it's my house and no one will take it away; Ex: on Internet I can find public records for property ownership in FL
- Need to create matrix of NGO's working in Haiti (Governor's Advisory Group is working on this).
 - Goal is to let everyone know what groups are working there
 - Coordinate efforts, prevent overlaps
 - Private Sector needs to see gov't as a tool
- Need for greater cooperation between Government of Haiti and private sector groups
 - Establish a body to address concerns of Diaspora?
 - Must improve image in DC before USA government; USA gives attention to government that sells itself the best
 - Startup money needs to come from private sector
 - Empower people in their own communities to start projects

- Need for double nationality
 - Parliament must pass laws
 - Haitians in USA need to lobby for this
- One problem is Haiti is unable to collect revenues that are due from customs
 - If Florida can back this up, and then sell the idea to other parts of the USA, this will benefit Haiti

December 6-8, 2004 InterContinental Hotel Miami, FL

Concurrent Workshops—Florida & the Caribbean Basin
Wednesday December 8, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

Health: Wealth of the Region

Moderator: Ernest Massiah, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Discussants: Saira Joshi, Mirant Caribbean, Inc.; Raymond Rifenburg, Ex-Director USAID-DR; Linda Swacina, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Karl Theodore, University of West Indies; Mario Vulinovich, Shell

Where do we need to be in 2006?

Issues:

- HIV/AIDS is wide spread and region does not fully understand the impact.
- Leadership and commitment by government and industry is key, where good corporate citizenship needs to be encouraged.
- There is a need to fight stigma, discrimination, and denial that a problem exists.
- Limited ability to mobilize regional resources effectively.
- Infrastructural constraints remain a hindrance to public health efficiency.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Utilize technology to transfer knowledge on business best practices, private-public sector partnerships and a regional, multi-sectoral response.
- Educate workforce and citizens on risks to business and economy.
- Educate tourists on impact and depth of HIV/AIDS in the region.
- Encourage company level and employee interventions.
- Involve the church to break down stigma and discrimination barriers.
- Develop methods for disease surveillance and set rules for preventing spread of disease.
- Standardize health programs in the workplace to serve as adaptable models.

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Implement global best practices—utilize approaches that have worked in Africa, Southeast Asia, Barbados, Jamaica, and globally to monitor and alleviate the spread of the epidemic.
- Involve political leaders to serve as “Ambassadors of HIV/AIDS” in raising awareness.
- Programs must be monitored and evaluated over time to extract best practice approaches.

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Concurrent Workshops—Florida & the Caribbean Basin
Wednesday December 8, 2004
10:30am-12:00pm

Port Security: As Strong as the Weakest Link

Moderators: John LaCapra, Florida Ports Council

Discussants: Anthony Bryan, CSIS; Nathan Dundas, Bryson' Shipping; Kim Peterson, SeaSecure; Everton Walters, Barbados Ports Authority

Where do we need to be in 2005 and 2006?

Issues:

- Need for a plan in terms of ports and training of security specialist, not just security guards.
- Uniform standards for lighting, fencing, access controls, etc.
- An appropriate financing scheme.
- The effects of the cruise line industry and aggressive negotiating under the circumstances and in the context of disaster relief.
- The perception in the Caribbean that compliance has no teeth, since even U.S. ports lack needed funding.
- A regional plan requires the approval of all ministers.
- Establish a realistic assessment of the costs of compliance.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Florida's competitiveness depends on the region's competitiveness, a fact recognized by both the State's Governor and the Senator. Future operational maintenance must be planned for.
- By the end of January 2005, a financial plan needs to be agreed on by Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA), Caricom, Caribbean Ports Association (CPA)
- Need for long-term financing with a deferred payment option and allowing collective purchasing.
- A grant process, like that provided for hurricane relief, would also prove effective.
- Dialogue with the cruise lines: cruise lines need to understand the need for the head tax under the circumstances.
- Need to realize that security is an investment not just a cost, and security provides synergies which have doubled the efficiencies of some ports. In absolute terms, compliance costs less than a 747.

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Maritime Security Alliance (MSA) update: the first stage of the CCAA-FPC plan is complete, and project and training identification for the region is now needed.

Concurrent Roundtables—Public Policy
Wednesday December 8, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Corporate Social Responsibility: A Competitive Necessity in a Global Economy

Moderator: Edward Glab (Florida International University)

Discussants: Patricia Francis (JAMPRO), David Huezo (AMCHAM El Salvador), Michael Jarvis (World Bank Institute), Stephen Jordan (Center for Corporate Citizenship), Jorge Nowalski (CIDH)

Where do we need to be in 2005 and 2006?

Issues:

- Role of the state: what role should governments have in efforts of the private sector or civil society to establish a country as an attractive place to invest?
- How should Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) be used to promote development in the region?
- How to get business managers in Central America & the Caribbean to consider CSR on a daily basis? (CSR is far more widely practiced in the United States than in Latin America)

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- The state has a crucial role to play in establishing a framework within which the region must be “re-branded” as an attractive tourist destination, a friendly place for investors and a good place to do business. The CSR concept should be used for this purpose. Ex.: Costa Rica as a country that has branded itself as an ecotourism haven, using one of the major planks of CSR (environmental issues).
- The state must be pressured (by the private sector and civil society) to enforce “level playing fields”, labor & environmental laws, and ethics (e.g. fight against corruption) for all business, local or multinational.
- All of the region’s local chambers of commerce & industry should be more aggressive in their advocacy of CSR with the government: more demand in government transparency and better regulation.
- As a tool for promoting CSR, it would perhaps be useful to establish annual “Corporate Stewardship” or “Leadership in Ethics” awards to encourage best practices of CSR and to emphasize importance of transparency. Awards should be given at local chambers, at the annual CCAA meetings, or at other venues.
- Implementing best practices in CSR reduces perception of risk and increases investment potential. CSR practices also affect international lending to the country.
- Examples of best practices in CSR:
 - Work of AMCHAM El Salvador in pursuing CSR strategy.
 - JAMPRO in Jamaica has pushed for transparency in government.
- Governments *must* cooperate with civil society and private enterprise in working collectively toward solutions to common socio-economic concerns: this is crucial to investment and growth.

Concurrent Roundtables—Public Policy
Wednesday December 8, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Environment: Protecting Our Unique Competitive Advantage

Moderator: Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Caribbean Environment Program

Discussants: Loreto Duffy-Mayers, Casuarina Beach Club; Robin Rosenberg, University of Miami; André Wainwright, Minister of Environment, Government of Haiti

Where do we need to be in 2005 and 2006?

Issues:

- Caribbean Basin has tremendous environmental endowment. However, connection between environmental sustainability and competitiveness has not been established
- With globalization comes increased competitiveness. Perception is that environmental management & protection puts a price on the region's competitiveness.
- Sustainable development has never been accepted in the marketplace. It will be, once it is seen as part of being competitive and the bottom line.
- Business has to go beyond public relations campaigns and fully embrace corporate responsibility relative to the environment.
- Within the region, we have examples of environmental disasters e.g. Haiti

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Strengthen enforcement of regulations in the region, which are currently weak. Make regulations clear and consistent.
- Region needs to be aware that in trade discussions and negotiations, environmental issues are important for Congress and have to be addressed. This should drive home the point that long-term sustainability is viewed increasingly as a major element of the bottom line. With Kyoto treaty in force, region should feel empowered to launch strong initiatives.
- In hospitality industry for example, some benchmarks have been set where water, chemical and energy usage is being monitored. In Barbados particularly, Ministries have done their environmental training at the Casuarina Beach Club and Tourism Ministry is moving to get all hotels into environmental movement.
- Public and private sector must come to agreement on environmental requirements for development as well as cleaning products, etc.
- Community involvement, staff awareness and training on the importance of the environment and education on conservation of the habitats of sensitive species all need to be highlighted in national, regional and business plans
- Success has to be determined as not only how much money is being saved but also, how has an initiative helped preserve the country's natural and cultural heritage.

Best Practice Recommendations

- Tax incentives for companies willing to comply with standards such as blue flag and green hotel e.g. Barbados
- Convey message that sustainability raises competitiveness and improves the bottom line

Concurrent Roundtables—Public Policy
Wednesday December 8, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Haiti: It's About Job Creation

Moderator: Jean Edouard Baker, Association des Industries d'Haiti (AIDH);

Discussants: Richard Coles, Multi-Tex; Kesner Pharel, Croissance; Julio Barea, Russell Corporation.

What needs to be done to further integrate Haiti?

Issues:

- U.S. has different mechanisms to create jobs; SBA, EDA etc. Haiti needs similar mechanisms to boost entrepreneurship and job creation. The first step in achieving this is a complete restructuring of governmental and legal branches.
- Passing of the Haitian Economic Recovery Opportunity Act 2004 (HERO) is crucial
- Shift focus from traditional industries to emerging industries such as IT
- Government needs to stabilize and facilitate an environment where jobs can be created

What needs to be done to make Haiti more competitive?

- Formation of new alliances between private and public sector.
- Haiti needs to focus more on quality management
- Better distribution of wealth is needed
- New micro and macro economic structure needed
- Improvement of education system
- New innovations
- Guarantee safe movement of goods from ports to factory and vice versa

What needs to be done to attract foreign investment to Haiti?

- Haiti has a very favorable investment climate. One major competitive advantage Haiti has is the country's high commitment related to social responsibility. Most workers are paid twice the minimum wage.
- Haiti needs to change its image by promoting the tourism industry. The world has a wrong image of Haiti. As long as this is not changed, FDI will be hard to attract.
- Corruption, smuggling, and security need to be addressed. Security is very important since there is so much political upheaval.
- Ports need to stay open at all times regardless of what goes on in the country. If Haiti fails to secure ports, more textile and apparel companies will offshore jobs to South Asia. According to Richard Coles, Haiti is *the* solution to manufacturing in the region.
- FAVACA offered to sponsor seminars in Haiti to help facilitate small business development and increase job creation

CCAA Best Practice Studies:

- How to maximize the potential of new business facilitation center.

Concurrent Roundtables—Public Policy
Wednesday December 8, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Integration & Trade: Hemispheric vs. Regional Objectives

Moderator: Peter Kalil, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Discussants: Carl Cira, Florida International University; David Lewis, Manchester Trade; Albert Ramdin, Government of Suriname; Andrés van der Horst Álvarez, Government of the Dominican Republic

Where do we need to be in 2005 and 2006?

Issues:

- Region has failed to take full advantage of CBI, its benefits have been eroded by inaction as other groups have gained similar or superior benefits (ex. NAFTA) limiting comparative advantages
- The development debate must not confuse three distinct concepts: Trade liberalization, Regional Integration and a Common Market while maintaining realistic expectations for each one:
 - Trade Liberation – increase market access by simple phasing out of tariffs and non-tariff barriers – i.e. Large number of nations seeking bi-lateral agreements with U.S.
 - Regional Integration – holistic & integral process: harmonizing external tariff & internal tax structures, linking infrastructure, etc. – ex. Plan Puebla Panama.
 - Common Market – most comprehensive arrangement requiring artificial mechanisms such as subsidies to ensure level playing field
- Public-Private partnerships are essential for success: governments negotiate trade agreements but companies are the driving force of integration because they are more maneuverable.
- Multilateral vs. Bilateral: countries are pursuing their own interests by negotiating at different levels Bilateral agreements provide momentum for an eventual “closing of the circle” for a comprehensive FTAA
- Clusters are key for international competitiveness.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Implementation will be crucial to realizing potential gains from liberalized trade
 - U.S. should fund trade capacity building programs focused on preparing local governments to handle increased commercial traffic
 - Institutional strengthening and national policy reforms: job retraining, tax reform, redesign of social safety net, credit availability, customs modernization, conflict resolution mechanisms
- A major public awareness program on the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME) is needed in Caricom countries - it is unclear what Caricom’s options are for trade liberalization if the FTAA does not advance.
- Increase awareness and support of the Summit of the Americas process and FTAA among U.S. & regional business community

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Comprehensive Integration Agenda - Plan Puebla Panama
 - Integral approach considers transportation, logistics, trade, infrastructure, electricity, disaster preparedness, etc.
 - Political support from governments in the region (especially Mexico)
 - Financial support from multilateral lenders (Inter-American Development Bank)
 - Small size of the region makes ambitious vision possible
- Trade information databases: USAID sponsored SIECA and Labor statistics databases

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Concurrent Roundtables—Public Policy
Wednesday December 8, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Labor: Compliance vs. Enforcement

Moderators: Richard Feinberg, UC, San Diego; Charles Masten, WRAP

Discussants: Steve Jesseph, Sara Lee; Javier Morales, AIM Capital; Arturo Peguero, ADOZONA; Roberto Romero Pineda, Romero Pineda & Associates

Where do we need to be in 2005 and 2006?

Issues:

- Multitude of labor codes and assessments creates confusion and requires multiple certification processes.
- How can code convergence be achieved?
- Improper knowledge of labor law and capacity to enforce the law.
- Lack of local resources to fund and provide expertise on labor issues.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- To improve the effectiveness of labor standards, private-sector leaders should work with the community leadership and the government to help with code implementation.
- Harmonize regional labor codes and certification process.
- Train certification auditors and labor enforcers on laws and certification process. Develop continuous re-training mechanism as laws are reformed.
- Create partnerships with the Ministries of Labor and private sector to help develop a common set of standards and enforcement mechanisms, recognized internationally, to be applied throughout the region.
- Monitor enforcement through internal controls.

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Provide private sector led training to educate factory workers, owners and civil servants on how to improve enforcement of labor standards.
- Develop certification process for auditors and promote a professional organization of certified auditors.
- Standardize regional labor laws.
- Learn from Honduran business tax law enforcement—if do not comply with local law then lose business license and certification.

Concurrent Roundtables—Public Policy
Wednesday December 8, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Non-Independent Territories: Can the Region Be Truly Integrated Without Them?

Moderator: Carlyle Corbin, U.S. Virgin Islands

Discussants: C. Walton Brown, Research Innovations; K.H. Randolph Horton, Minister of Labour & Home Affairs (Bermuda); Michael Misick, Chief Minister (Turks & Caicos)

Where do we need to be in 2005 and 2006?

Issues:

- All have different relationships with larger countries with which they have a political relationship stemming from their varying Constitutional frameworks.
- Different cultures/languages within the overseas countries and territories.
- The participation of Overseas Countries & Territories (OCT) in international affairs varies depending on the level of autonomy of the individual OCT
- Limited level of participation in the global arena and in regional/international organizations. Varying participation in some United Nations and regional bodies.
- Globalization creates pressure, but OCT's on their own are ill-equipped to deal with the challenges of globalization because of limited international engagement.
- Challenge from international agencies to revamp tax system (i.e. what policies/practices regarding foreign investment are most appropriate?).

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Focus on a concerted effort to identify areas of common interest.
- Move beyond divisions created by culture and language—not just on a political level, but on a civil society level as well.
- Development of a common strategy for policy issues.
- Active lobbying to ensure greater representation in international organizations.
- OCT's need to continue to promote/foster open channels of communication amongst one another.
- Invest in building human capacity and educating population about the implications and benefits of hemispheric economic integration.

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Establishment of a foreign investment model that works for the region and put proper guidelines in place for receiving foreign investment.
- Create a mechanism/forum allowing for increased communication amongst OCT's to develop a coordinated position in the face of the international arena. Focus on similarities to increase leverage.
- Relationships with administering partners. The political and constitutional models of governance in the OCTs need to be modernized to fully self-governing models, either through full independence, free association, or full integration. Focus on increased recognition.
- Adequate Constitutional modernization.

Concurrent Roundtables—Public Policy
Wednesday December 8, 2004
2:00pm-4:30pm

Role of the Media: Encouraging Accountability

Moderator: Andrés Oppenheimer, Miami Herald

Discussants: Alejandro Aguirre, Diario de las Américas; Adolfo Arguello, AIM Capital; John Barham, Latin Finance; Hugo Holmann, La Prensa (Nicaragua); Gregory Leddy, Newlink Communications

Where do we need to be in 2005 and 2006?

Issues:

- The region is plagued by a lack of neutrality of the media that all too often results in self-censorship.
- Economic factors place media at great risk.
- There is a need to improve methods of message delivery: the media often has many headlines, burdened with many issues
- Education for the Journalism field is very weak. The region needs to invest in creating good reporters.
- The media suffers from a constant struggle to establish relevance—finding good information is not an easy task.
- Lack of credibility because people are not always made accountable for what they say.

What needs to be done to meet those expectations, strengthen the region, and make the Caribbean Basin more competitive?

- Journalism is a very strong instrument of communication and free press must be promoted by all of its all constituents, particularly government.
- Newspapers that are tied to Presidencies (i.e. Nicaragua's La Prensa decreased circulation example) must sever ties if they want to establish legitimacy.
- A code of ethics for the journalism industry should be established.
- Look to outside consultants, who know the media industry and understand the processes of effectively disseminating information, for guidance/input.
- Increased investment in Journalism education.
- Increased focus on developing the most relevant/accurate message—reporters need to “dig deeper” into their stories/issues.

CCAA Best Practice Study Recommendations:

- Creation of a roadmap towards establishing legitimacy of the media. All parties need to internalize the importance of avoiding self-censorship in the media.
- What are ways of making the media more effective at delivering its message? High speed internet provides fast, worldwide access to information—impact of technology on the media as a means of improving its effectiveness.
- Journalism school: What makes a good reporter? How to ask the appropriate, not just the provocative questions. Focus on effective communication strategies and developing an appropriate code of ethics.